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CLAIMS:

1.   A portable information system (100) comprising:
an audio/video sensor (130) that is capable of obtaining audio/video signals; and
a wireless communication device (105) associated with said audio/video sensor
(100) that is capable of communicating with a remotely located server (170) to obtain
information that is accessible by said server (170);
wherein said wireless communication device (105) is capable of executing an
automatic search procedure (114,118) to cause said server (170) to search for information
that relates to a search parameter that a user inputs to said portable information system
(100); and
wherein said server (170) searches for said information in a plurality of databases
that are located in a plurality of networks (165).

2.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said
search parameter is a video image and wherein said automatic search procedure (114, 118)
that is executed by said wireless communication device (105) comprises a video content
retrieval procedure (114) that utilizes a search procedure that is known as image retrieval
by example.

3.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said
search procedure (114,118) that is executed by said wireless communication device (105)
causes said server (170) to locate at least one Web site that contains an image that
matches said search parameter video image.

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    4.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said wireless communication device (105) one of:

    receives an input from said user to select a Web site from a list of Web sites located by said search procedure, wherein each Web site in said list of Web sites contains an image that matches said search parameter video image; and

    automatically selects a Web site from a list of Web sites located by said search procedure, wherein each Web site in said list of Web sites contains an image that matches said search parameter video image.

    5.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said automatic search procedure (114,118) that is executed by said wireless communication device (105) further comprises a search procedure that is known as Web information extraction (118); and

    wherein said wireless communication device (105) executes said Web information extraction procedure (118) on said selected Web site to obtain additional information from said server (170) that relates to said search parameter video image.

    6.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said additional information comprises one of: an audio presentation, a video presentation, a text presentation, historical information, graphical information, an artistic performance, and URL information.

    7.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said wireless communication device (105) further comprises:

    a location unit (150) that is capable of providing location information to said wireless communication device (105).

    8.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said wireless communication device (105) further comprises:

    an encyclopedia database (122) that is capable of containing travel information; and

    a travel history database (126) that is capable of containing travel information that

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relates to travels that a user has taken in the past.

9.   A portable information system (100) as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said search parameter is a word and wherein said automatic search procedure (114,118) that is executed by said wireless communication device comprises a word content retrieval procedure (114,118).

10.   A portable information system (200) as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said wireless communication device further comprises an internally located server (170).

11.   A method of automatically retrieving information for a portable information system (100), said method comprising the steps of:
        obtaining audio/video signals in an audio/video sensor (130);
        utilizing a wireless communication device (105) associated with said audio/video sensor (130) to communicate with a remotely located server (170) to obtain information that is accessible by said server (170);
        inputting a search parameter into said portable information system (100);
        executing an automatic search procedure (114,118) in said wireless communication device (100) to cause said server (170) to search for information that relates to said search parameter in a plurality of databases (175) that are located in a plurality of networks (165); and
        receiving in said wireless communication device (105) information located by said server (170) that relates to said search parameter.

12.   The method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said search parameter is a video image and wherein said automatic search procedure that is executed by said wireless communication device comprises a video content retrieval procedure that utilizes a search procedure that is known as image retrieval by example.

13.   The method as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said search procedure that is executed by said wireless communication device causes said server to locate at least one Web site that contains an image that matches said search parameter video image.

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14.   The method as claimed in Claim 13 further comprising the step of one of:

receiving in said wireless communication device an input from said user to select a Web site from a list of Web sites located by said search procedure, wherein each Web site in said list of Web sites contains an image that matches said search parameter video image; and

receiving in said wireless communication device a Web site automatically selected by said wireless communication device from a list of Web sites located by said search procedure, wherein each Web site in said list of Web sites contains an image that matches said search parameter video image.

15.   The method as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said automatic search procedure (114,118) that is executed by said wireless communication device (105) further comprises a search procedure that is known as Web information extraction (118); and wherein said method further comprises the step of:

executing said Web information extraction procedure (118) on said selected Web site to obtain additional information from said server that relates to said search parameter video image.

16.   The method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein said additional information comprises one of: an audio presentation, a video presentation, a text presentation, historical information, graphical information, an artistic performance, and URL information.

17.   The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the step of:

providing location information to said wireless communication device (105).

18.   The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

providing said wireless communication device with an encyclopedia database that is capable of containing travel information; and

providing said wireless communication device with a travel history database that is capable of containing travel information that relates to travels that a user has taken in the past.

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19.   The method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said search parameter is a word and wherein said automatic search procedure that is executed by said wireless communication device comprises a word content retrieval procedure.

20.   The method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said wireless communication device further comprises an internally located server, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

executing said automatic search procedure in said wireless communication device to cause said internally located server to search for information that relates to said search parameter within at least one database located within said wireless communications device; and

receiving in said wireless communication device information located by said internally located server that relates to said search parameter.